

Atlas Stakeholders Group Meeting
March 15, 2002
Grand County Council Chambers
Moab, UT
9:00 a.m.

In Attendance:

Dianne R. Nielson, DEQ	Bill Sinclair, DEQ
Loren Morton, DEQ	Yolanda Shropshire, DEQ
Harvey Merrell, Citizen	Max Young, Utah State Representative
Vic Knox, NPS	Jerry Banta, NPS
Kleston Laws, UDOT	Susanne Mayberry, Grand County
Dan Brennecke, Citizen	Franklin Seal, Independent Times
Terry Wetz, IUC	Daryl Franj, UDOT
Rod Warner, WA Group Intl.	Brad Shafer, Senator Bennett's Office
Ron Dean, Sen. Hatch's Office	Judy Bane, Grand County
Peggy Harrison, Cannon's Office	Kim Schappert, Grand County
Cody Stewart, Cannon's Office	Dan Kimball, NPS
Bill Hedden, Grand Canyon Trust	Ray Plienness, DOE-GJO
Terry Plessinger, DOE-GJO	Audrey Berry, DOE-GJO
Ken Karp, MACTEC-ERS	Gary Kazzier, MACTEC-ERS
Ron Hochstein, IUC	Dave Sakejson, City of Moab
Ken Davey, City of Moab	

Item 2 - DOE Update on Atlas Site Status – Ray Plienness, DOE-GJO

Schedule Summary:

- Late summer/fall DOE convenes national Academy of Sciences panel to conduct study. They are on board, working actively. Status: Completed
- Identified there would be a preliminary plan for remediation completed by September, 2001. It was completed October 31, 2001. Status: Completed
- National Academy of Sciences began review of Plan for Remediation. Anticipated that it would start October 1, 2001 but it began October 31. Status: ongoing
- Complete transfer of title for Moab Site to DOE was planned for October 1. It was completed October 25, 2001. Status: Completed
- NRC was to terminate Trustee license in October. Status: Completed
- Anticipated the National Academy of Science would complete study by June, 2002. It is now expected later. Status: ongoing
- DOE-GJO makes recommendation to DOE headquarters regarding final site remediation around October 1, 2002.
- DOE reports to Congress if NAS recommendations differ from proposed DOE plan for Remediation. Status: anticipated at the end of 2002.

Activities Completed to Date:

- Finalized conceptual initial groundwater remedial action plan
 - Working with US Fish and Wildlife Service to see that the plan can be implemented
 - Pipe clean river water to reduce ammonia concentrations in backwater areas that are considered critical habitat after spring runoff recedes. Will be ready to operate by June, 2002.
- In process of getting design data to develop conceptual plan for interim groundwater remedial action. The plan is to extract the water before it gets to the river, contain it and pump it back into a containment pond for evaporation. Time frame: complete the design during this fiscal year and implement in 2003.
 - Installing 6-10 wells to pump up to 30 gallons per minute from center of ammonia plume into lined evaporation pond
- Established radiological controls for site
 - New signs posted on fence
 - New access point next to trailer
- Inventories completed regarding on-site laboratory chemicals to ensure safe storage. Intend to dispose of chemicals this year
- Developed lined bermed area to store used oils
- Established dust control strategy
 - have or will be in the process of spraying all roads, tailings pile and remainder of site to minimize dust
 - will have people there 7 days a week 10 hours a day. Also have an emergency number posted on the site. Number to call: Mr. Irwin Stewart at 435-259-5131
- Characterized radioactivity levels in existing tailings cover materials. Split site into 450-ft squares and took samples of each location. Found contamination on the cover above what was anticipated. They will spray the entire top and keep water on the area so the dust will not move off the site.
- Delineated wetlands areas below the bank of Colorado River. Have surveyed and come up with a 100-year floodplain. Will do the same thing on a 500-year floodplain.
- Completed the groundwater ammonia study across the sand bar area. Point of study was to determine whether or not there was ammonia in the groundwater at the river interface.
 - Results used to focus location for initial ground water remedial action
 - Report distributed to Stakeholders' Ground Water subcommittee
 - Study confirmed presence and extent of elevated levels of ammonia.
- Lined pond on top of pile constructed for wick dewatering system
 - Monitoring dewatering flows and settlement of pile
 - Pump was installed and put in lined pond and last week measured 15,000 gallons first week of measurement
- Completed air sampling and monitoring plan.
 - 16 on-site stations; 7 off-site stations (2 existing, remainder being installed this month)

Scope to be Completed this Fiscal Year

- Implement initial groundwater remedial action
- Will finalize the Site Waste Management Plan
- Design interim groundwater remedial action; start in July, 2002, and be completed by end of September, 2002
- Collect more information for the DOE Remediation Plan
- Complete Plan for Remediation

Questions:

- Legislation specifically says the pile will be moved. How is this being addressed?
Answer: Requested official opinion from the DOE Headquarters' legal staff; do not have a response yet.
- Blanding site vs. Klondike site – which one is better?
Answer: This is covered on Item #7 on the agenda.
- Could one more air monitoring station be added on the east side of the city? Concerned there is not one in a residential area. Suzanne Mayberry volunteered use of her yard.
Answer: 5 more have been selected for adequate coverage. Do not see a problem with moving one to different location, DOE will evaluate this possibility.

Item 3 - Future Role of Stakeholders Group

- Objective is to make sure mechanism is in place to inform individuals, particularly from Grand Junction and Moab what is going on.
- Kimberly would like to keep the group going for the communication. The forum is needed explore all options and to understand what each person has to offer to this project.
- Group gives us DOE opportunity to disseminate information, communicate and receive input. DOE is not part of the Stakeholders, but an invitee to provide information.
- Public will have role in developing criteria for decisions
- DOE has other venues for meetings and will share information with citizens.
- Stakeholders need to unite behind a plan that would require pile to be moved.
- Citizens are concerned with the length of time it takes to get things done.
- Group needs to be more focused; show alternative for moving pile
- Need to have a subgroup to meet more often. New Relocation Committee will consist of:
 - Bill Hedden, Chairman (will invite others if needed)
 - Harvey Merrill
 - UDOT (district engineers)
 - Max Young
 - BLM?
 - DEQ (DERR?)
 - DOE-GJO
 - NPS

- State and local government will continue to lobby Congress. Federal agencies cannot
- 2 subcommittees will report back to Stakeholders group
- Minutes will be posted on DRC web page:
www.deq.state.ut.us/egrad/mills/atlas/atlas.htm
- Atlas Stakeholders will now be called Moab Millsite Stakeholders Group

Item 4 - Groundwater subcommittee report on 10/17/01 meeting in Grand Junction

- Had a meeting October 17, 2002 that was hosted by DOE in Grand Junction.
- DOE and contractors were invited to participate, as well as State of Utah, USEPA, USFWS, & NPS, and contractors. Grand Canyon Trust was not able to attend.
- Agenda: Actions to address contaminated groundwater and related surface water.
 - **Initial Remediation Action** (to address elevated ammoniac concentrations in Colorado River.
 - Freshwater Application preferred option
 - Install after spring runoff (as early as late May to August, 2002)
 - Section 7 Consultation with USFWS; NEPA compliance – DOE currently preparing Environmental Checklist to support Categorical Exclusion.
 - What DOE has done:
 - Developed Characterization Work Plan to support Initial Remediation Action and provided to Subcommittee for review
 - Carried out river sandbar characterization for contaminant distribution and additional surface and ground water sampling
 - Completed draft Implementation Plan for Initial Remediation Action; will provide to Subcommittee for review.
 - **Interim Remediation Action** (to address elevated ammonia concentrations assuming Initial Remediation Action is not successful)
 - Evaluate parallel with development and implementation of Initial Remediation Action
 - Action: Ground water interception and treatment (discharge to lined evaporation pond)
 - DOE:
 - Developed Characterization Work Plan to support Interim Remediation Action and provided to Subcommittee for review.
 - Conducting groundwater sampling and bring pumping test
 - Developing implementation plan
 - **Long-Term Groundwater Clean-up Actions**
 - Actions to address all constituents exceeding UMTRA Groundwater Standards
 - Discussion postponed

- **Overview of Shepherd Miller Inc. Hydrogeologic & Geochemical Characterization & Alternatives Assessment**
 - Colorado River area affected by elevated ammonia concentrations: 2 acres and 2200 feet along river during low water
 - Mill site not well characterized and several data gaps exist
 - Other findings (Loren Morton, DEQ) – former clear water pond, SW corner of tailings pond; flood control berm; unlined disposal pits and former emulsion ponds.
- **Role and Function of Subcommittee**
 - Technical information sharing, exchange, peer review, and reporting back to Stakeholders (not decision making)
 - Additional members – BLM, USGS, COE, and Grand County?
 - Meet quarterly (or more frequently as needed)
 - Next meeting – April 16, 2002 – Grand Junction
 - Purpose: Review Implementation Plan for Initial Remediation Action and briefing by DOE on plans for Interim Remediation Action

Item 5 - Doe Process for Proposals for Remediation (information item) – Ray Plieness

- Grand Junction office has been getting information from vendors, construction companies on proposals of how to approach this project. Because of that, a March 6, 2002, notice was put in *Federal Business Opportunities*. Internet site is FEDBIZOPS). It will:
 - Request constructive ideas on how people may think the project should be executed – allow people to know that DOE is open to ideas.
 - DOE will consider proposals in evaluating different alternatives for final remediation determination
 - People can expect to competitively bid subcontracts for remediation of mill site
 - No deadline for proposals
 - Slurry line to Klondike Flats will be considered

Item 6 - DEQ Report on Atlas Employee Records Access – Bill Sinclair

- January, 2002, DEQ received 95 boxes of records from the old Atlas corporation.
- DEQ agreed to provide access to employee records. It was anticipated that the boxes would be the employee records of the former employees of Atlas mill site; however, they contained all Atlas records.
- Personnel records were sorted out and now managed by DEQ/HRM. Ended up with 40 boxes of personnel records. Contact is Dan Brentel – 801-536-4110.
- Goal is to have those records available to anyone that needs information regarding employment at the Atlas site.

Item 7- DOE – “Next Steps” – Ray Plieness

Remediation Schedule:

- National Academy of Sciences performing technical evaluation; will not recommend a preferred alternative

- NAS report due to DOE in June, 2002
- Final Plan for Remediation will recommend to cap-in-place or relocate to generic site
- Will deliver final plan for remediation by September 30, 2002 to DOE Headquarters
- If relocation is selected, further evaluation will be performed in 2003 for final site selection

Information to be Obtained for Plan for Remediation

- Sensitivity analysis of the model Shepherd Miller, Inc. and US NRC groundwater models
 - Results will be used to define data gaps and to develop a DOE site conceptual model.
- Research potential for migration of Colorado River
- Characterize tailings subpile for extent of radiological and metals contamination – will be doing this shortly
- Evaluate erosional effects of Moab Wash on tailings pile
- Will conduct a review of available geologic information for Klondike Flats
- Install background (bedrock) wells to determine recharge of aquifer
- Conduct human health and ecological baseline risk assessments
 - No-action alternative
 - Cover added to pile (on-site stabilization)
 - Move pile
- Refine cost estimates; consider other transportation methods.
- Final the Reclamation Plan
 - Cap in place, or
 - Relocate to generic site

Dust Control:

- CaCl_2 will be applied to site roads (traveled)
 - 10 hrs/day, 7 days/week for water truck
 - application of CaCl_2 should last 3-6 months

State Escrow Account

- When trust was terminated there was \$300,000 left
- \$300,000 was divided between beneficiaries – State and NRC - \$150,000 each
- State's \$150,000 is in escrow account, with another Title 10 payment on 5/1/02 in the amount of \$800,000 (half goes to NRC)
- Possible projects to fund:
 - DWR fish habitat study \$4,500 (will distribute to groundwater committee and seek comments)
 - Klondike Flats characterization
 - Wait to see what DOE finds in Laramie, WY regarding historical data of the area

Item 8 – Site Funding Needs

FY 2002 Scope

- Conduct radiological assessment of 50% of site
- Prepare final plan for remediation
- Bring site into conformance with applicable regulations
- Control dust and other emissions
- Implement initial groundwater remedial action
- Complete design of interim groundwater remedial action

FY 2003 Scope

- Maintain site; control emissions
- Initiate interim groundwater remedial action
- Continue initial groundwater remedial action
- \$966,000 for Moab; \$600,000 LTSM = \$1.6 million
- \$6.4 million for remedial action for the site

Tasks that may not be completed in FY 2003 due to current funding constraints

- Initiation of interim groundwater remedial action*
- Preparation of required NEPA documentation*
- Completion of radiological assessment of site*
 - * - DOE-GJO needs \$2 million more to finish all of these actions
- President's budget is in and congressional hearings are underway
- DOE-GJO is \$2 million short in FY2003
- Senator Bennett needs DEQ to prepare justification for additional money
- DEQ & Grand County will prepare justification ASAP for Energy and Water Subcommittee
- Focus on implementing interim groundwater action ASAP

DOE Schedule

- If NAS report outlines many deficiencies, DOE will have to work on solving them (collecting more data) before they can finalize the plan and send to headquarters.

Other issues

- * Relocation Committee meeting will be scheduled during week of March 26, 2002.